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SPRINGHEAD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL

REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1913.

In accordance with the Memorandum issued by the L.G.B. a brief description of the physical features and general character of the district is required, though the following facts may seem superfluous locally.

The Springhead Urban District is situate in the western corner of the Saddleworth Union. On the north and east it abuts on the Saddleworth Urban District, while its western and southern boundaries form the County Boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire. The County Borough of Oldham abuts on the north, the Crossbank Parish of the Limehurst Rural District Council in the centre, and the Urban District of Lees in the south. The district has a length of about three miles from High Bank Farm in the north to Holly Bank in the south, and its greatest width from east to west is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Its surface varies from about 560 odd feet above sea level at the "Gardeners Arms" Waterhead the lowest point, to 1,196 feet near "High Lee Farm" the highest point.

The population is rather scattered the northern half is almost entirely agricultural, as is also the eastern half of the southern portion. The greater portion of the northern half of the district is within the gathering area of the Strinesdale Reservoirs of the Oldham Corporation. The remaining portion is a manufacturing centre, with cotton mills, and centres of population at Waterhead, Austerlands, Den Lane, Springhead, Lydgate, and Quickedge.

Population.

Census of 1911 5,052, an increase of 354 on the census of 1901.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,220 giving an average of 4.1 persons per house.

There are 76 uninhabited houses in the district.

Births.

The total number of births registered in the district during the year was 114 of which 73 were males and 41 were females.

This number was a decrease of 8, as compared with the year 1912 and is equal to a rate of 22·2 per 1000 of the population.

The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1913 is 23·9.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 78, 42 males and 36 females, giving a death rate of 15·2 per 1000 of the population, but to this total must be added the deaths of 2 persons (females) belonging to Springhead who died in other districts and from it 1 subtracted for the death of a non-resident registered in the district, giving a correct death rate of 15·4. The corrected death rate for 1912 was 13·9.

The death rate for the whole of England is 13·7.

The number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases was 3, Diphtheria 2, Measles 1. The number of deaths from Phthisis was 10 as compared with 5 during 1912 and the total number of deaths from tubercular disease was 14. 39 of the deaths were in persons of over 45 years of age.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 21 deaths under 12 months of age as compared with 15 in 1912, giving a rate of 184 per 1,000 births registered.

The rate of Infantile Mortality for the whole of England and Wales was 109.

The following are the causes of deaths under 12 months :

Diarrhoea	1	} Of these deaths 15 occurred in the Lower Ward, and 6 in the Higher Ward.
Premature Births	3	
Congenital Malformation ...	7	
Pneumonia	2	
Convulsions	2	
Enteritis	4	
Other Causes	2	

The causes of the remaining number of deaths will be found on table 3 attached.

Sanitary circumstances of the district. Water Supply.

Practically the whole district (with the exception of a small area in the Strinesdale portion) is supplied with water from the Oldham Corporation and the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks.

There have been no further developments during 1913.

Rivers and Streams.

The majority of streams in the district are polluted, but this will be remedied under the Sewerage scheme.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The first sod was cut on August 25th, 1913, by Councillor Warhurst and the Engineer now reports :—
“Fair progress has been made on these works, the structural part of the Sewerage Disposal works being now almost completed, and the main Outfall Sewer will soon be finished. We shall very soon enter the district, when we expect to make rapid progress with the construction of the Sewers.”

No Sink wastes have been disconnected during 1913.

Closet Accomodation.

Privies with open middens	31
No. of Pail Closets	814
No. of Water Closets	16
No. of Waste Water Closets	1

4 additional Pail Closets have been constructed
for old property.

6 Pail Closets have been constructed for new houses.

Scavenging.

The whole of the Scavenging for the district is performed by contract, and on the whole is adequate. The Pail Closets are now entered weekly instead of fortnightly.

The County Medical Officer recommends the Council to undertake public scavenging themselves, doing the work with their own staff of men and horses.

Nuisance Inspections.

Total number of inspections made in 1913, 80.

34 informal notices have been served of which 33 have been complied with.

6 statutory notices have been served all of which have been complied with.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1912		1
do. do. 1913		0
do. Reported during 1912		37
do. Abated during 1913		38

No Summonses or other legal proceedings.

There are no Common Lodging Houses, Canal Boats, or Knackers' Yard, and no Offensive Trades in the District.

Schools.

Visits to Schools by M.O.H. are made as occasion arises. Disinfectants are supplied to all Schools in the District for systematic use. The Sanitary conditions and Water Supply to the Schools are satisfactory.

Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out by the County Medical Officer (and his Assistants) who is the School Medical Officer for the District.

Milk Supply.

No complaints have been notified, and no cases of disease have been attributed to milk in 1913.

Veterinary inspection of dairy cows to be made in cases suspected by M.O.H. to be tubercular. There are 42 Cow Keepers in the district, and 71 Cowsheds, to which 92 Inspections have been made during 1913 (exclusive of visits of M.O.H.) 26 of the Cow-sheds are in good condition, 36 are fair, 2 are bad, and 7 are at present unoccupied.

Approx. number of Milch Cows in district 414.

Other Foods.

There have been no samples of food taken for examination under Food and Drugs Act, nor have any seizures of unsound food been made.

There are 4 Slaughter-houses in the district which are all registered. These are all old fashioned.

No prosecutions have been made *Re—(a)* Food and Drugs; *(b)* Unsound Food; *(c)* Slaughter Houses.

Action under Housing Regulations 1910.

The Sanitary Inspector has been appointed Inspector under Article II of these Regulations, with instructions to call upon M.O.H. in doubtful cases.

196 houses have been inspected, 4 have been found not reasonably fit for habitation. 2 representations have been made by local authority. 2 houses have had defects removed without closing order. No compulsory demolitions have been made. 2 houses unfit are still occupied. There are 2 cellar dwellings in the district. Records are submitted to the Local Authority at every ordinary meeting.

There appears to be no scarcity of houses in the district. Only 5 cases of overcrowding have been reported during the past twelve months.

6 new houses have been built during 1913, consisting of 6 rooms. No working class dwellings have been erected by the Council, but a Committee has been formed to act in conjunction with Oldham concerning Town Planning.

Factories and Workshops.

The special form issued by the Home Office is attached. 31 Smoke observations have been taken, 4 Cautions and 1 Legal Notice have been served but no summonses issued.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

There is no Hospital for either Infectious Diseases or for Tuberculosis, but arrangements are made for treatment of Infectious Diseases at the Oldham Hospital when necessary.

The County Medical Officer recommends the formation of a Joint Hospital Committee, embracing Springhead and Saddleworth, which should provide a suitable Hospital for the District, with the necessary steam disinfectors and ambulance.

No chemical or bacteriological work has been undertaken, beyond the examination of Sputum, Blood, &c., for purposes of Diagnosis and Analysis of suspected samples of water.

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

The following are in force in the District :-

New Streets and Buildings (P. H. Amendment Act, 1890)	Aug. 11th, 1906
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops' Act	Mar. 10th, 1907

Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

Table 2 attached gives statistics as to the cases of Infectious Diseases which have occurred during 1913. Total number of cases reported 45, as compared with 23 in 1912.

Scarlet Fever	17
Erysipelas	1
Diphtheria	2

2 cases of Croup and 1 case of Measles have proved fatal.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in Austerlands School in June, which was therefore closed for a period of 6 weeks.

Prevalence and Control over Tuberculosis.

25 cases of Tuberculosis (under Tuberculosis Regulation 1912) were notified during 1913. Of these 10 were Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 15 of other parts. There is no Sanatorium or Hospital accommodation for these cases in the district.

These cases are visited by M.O.H. and the more suitable cases have been advised to apply to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for treatment.

It will be seen from Table III attached that there have been :-

14 Deaths from Tuberculosis.

10 Pulmonary.

1 Meningeal.

3 Other Forms.

1 under 2 years.

1 under 5 years.

2 under 25 years.

2 under 45 years.

5 under 65 years.

3 over 65 years.

Means for Preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.

No steps have been taken in regard to this matter beyond the the distribution of pamphlets (on the care of Infants) by the Registrar when births are registered.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories 19. Workshops 9. No. of Inspections 34.
(Excluding visits of M.O.H.)

Written Notices 2. Prosecutions nil.

The closet accomodation of these is satisfactory.
The fire escapes are considered by the L.A. to be sufficient.

E. MARTIN, M.B. B.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

Waterhead,
Oldham, April 1st, 1914.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	2		1	1				
Erysipelas	1					1		
Scarlet Fever	17	1	5	9	2			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis... ..	10			1		5	4	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	15		3	8	3			1
Totals	45	1	9	19	5	6	4	1

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up- wards.
	80	21	7	4	2	2	5	20	19
All causes Certified	80	21	7	4	2	2	5	20	19
Measles	1								
Diphtheria and Croup	2			1	1				
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)...	10			1	1		2	5	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	1		1						
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	3					2			1
Cancer, malignant disease	2							1	1
Meningitis	1				1				
Organic Heart Disease	2						1	1	
Bronchitis	3		1					1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	2	3	1				3	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis.....	7	5						1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4							2	2
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth.	10	10							
Suicide	3						1	2	
Other Defined Diseases.....	18	4	2				1	4	7
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2								2
Total.....	80	21	7	4	2	2	5	20	19